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FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 OCTOBER 1984

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces launched an offensive against Iraqi positions over a 50 km front in the mountainous Meymak region, IRNA announced. The attack, which began late on 17 October, is in response to Iraqi air raids and artillery attacks on Iranian western border villages and is designed to gain control of the heights used as artillery positions by the Iraqis, IRNA added. However, an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio claimed that an Iranian attack on Iraq's II Army Corps was repulsed with "immense losses." The Iraqi Army was expecting the offensive and "tore their troops to pieces," the communique stated.

On the southern front, Iran repelled an Iraqi attack northwest of Khorramshahr, according to IRNA. Heavy artillery fire forced the Iraqis to retreat, the agency said, and the Iranians counter-attacked, killing and capturing large numbers of Iraqis. For Iraq's part, a military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio asserted that Iraqi forces had carried out a "daring raid" on Iranian troops east of Basra, storming Iranian positions and inflicting heavy losses. Citing sources in Baghdad, Radio Monte Carlo said Iraq has sent large reinforcements to the southern front and has placed its armed forces on maximum alert.

As for the Gulf, the Manama *GULF DAILY NEWS* reported that an Iranian supertanker was hit and set on fire in a recent Iraqi air attack on shipping south of Khark Island. Meanwhile, Iraq's acquisition of eight Mirage F-1 EQ5 aircraft has given its Air Force the ability to attack Iran's oil terminal at Lavan Island, the paper noted.

Lebanon

Israel is "adamant" in its desire to secure effective and lasting security arrangements that will allow the IDF to withdraw from Lebanon, and it has no intention of compromising on these arrangements, Israel announced in an official communique reported by Jerusalem radio. The communique, which was issued by Prime Minister Shim'on Peres' office after his talks with U.S. Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, said Israel's withdrawal will be conditional on commitments by Syria not to enter areas evacuated by the IDF and not to allow "terrorist activity" from areas under its control. The Israelis also insist on the deployment of the army of southern Lebanon (ASL) close to their northern border, with UNIFIL units positioned north of the ASL from the Mediterranean in the west to the Syrian lines in the east. The Israeli announcement stressed that Israel will welcome the good offices of the United States in mediating between the parties. The radio described the official statement as Israel's "final position" on Lebanon, and cited the view of "political sources" that Israel will achieve all its demands if it is patient.

As for the possibility of Israeli-Lebanese military talks through UNIFIL, a Lebanese source cited by Voice of Lebanon radio said Lebanon will agree to take part in such negotiations if they are held "within the framework of the armistice commission." UNIFIL sources revealed that the talks will begin soon after the Lebanese Government announces its official agreement to participate, Jerusalem radio reported. The radio also noted that Israel will seek to discuss the status of the ASL in the talks. Meanwhile, a Lebanese Foreign Ministry official stated that the opening of the coastal road to the south will be achieved through the United Nations and the "current contacts" on the question of security arrangements, according to Beirut radio.

Syria

President Hafiz al-Asad decided to extend his visit to Moscow by 1 day to finalize some "hot points" from the 16 October talks with Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko, according to sources in Moscow cited by KUNA, a development which monitored Syrian media have not reported. Indications are that the main reason for the extension is to find a "final formula for setting up a bilateral strategic military alliance" similar to that between the United States and Israel, the sources stated. Meanwhile, Syria's *TISHRIN* declared that both Al-Asad and Chernenko agree that "reinforcing the Syrian military capability" in order to achieve strategic balance and deter aggression is a "foregone conclusion," SANA reported.

In a related development, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam discussed Syrian-Soviet economic cooperation during talks with Soviet Premier Nikolay Tikhonov, Damascus radio noted.

In Syria, Chief of Staff General Hikmat al-Shihabi told Air Force graduates that the Syrian Air Force and air defenses are now stronger than ever before, SANA reported.

Iraq-Turkey

Iraq has again agreed to allow Turkish troops to cross into northern Iraq in pursuit of Kurdish rebels, according to Turkish press reports cited by AFP. In a speech to the Turkish parliament reported by Ankara radio, Turkish Prime Minister Turgut Ozal confirmed that Turkey and Iraq have held positive talks on the struggle against the "terrorists" and have reached "certain decisions in principle." Turkey also plans to hold talks with Iran on the same subject, he disclosed. Noting that 18 people were killed and 25 others wounded in recent "incidents" in Kurdish areas, the prime minister accused "certain countries" of supporting terrorism against Turkey.

Jordan

In his talks with U.S. Secretary of Defense Weinberger, King Husayn underlined the importance of holding an international conference on the Middle East and declared that Jordan will continue its policy of diversifying its arms sources, according to a royal court source cited by Amman radio. In a commentary

featured on the radio's press review, *SAWT AL-SHA'B* claimed that Weinberger's trip brings "promises and assurances to the Arabs, and billions of dollars and U.S. military aid to Israel."

In another development, Finance Minister Hanna 'Awdah arrived in Moscow to confer on "several political issues of mutual concern" and economic topics, according to INA.

Israel

Weinberger Visit — The main success resulting from Defense Secretary Weinberger's visit lies in the "change of atmosphere" in the Pentagon toward Israel's requests for know-how and Israeli participation in military tenders in the United States, Israeli security sources asserted in remarks reported by Jerusalem television. This comment followed Weinberger's announcement, broadcast by IDF radio, that the United States has released the production technology for phase three of the Lavi aircraft project and has agreed to form a joint working team to study Israel's submarine requirements.

Relations With Egypt — The Egyptian defense minister's statement viewing Israel as one of Egypt's enemies is "strange" and will "cloud the atmosphere," according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by IDF radio.

Egypt

The resumption of Egypt's relations with Jordan should rectify "misconceptions" in the Arab world and be an incentive to others, President Husni Mubarak stated in an interview with Kuwait's *AL-SIYASAH reported by MENA. He denied that there are any* secret agreements between him and King Husayn concerning Palestine. Mubarak also observed that the new Israeli Government shows "flexibility compared to the former government," and that he would have no objection to meeting it "when Israel acts positively." As for relations with the United States and the USSR, he affirmed that Egypt maintains a "balanced view." Noting that investigations indicate that Libya is responsible for planting the Red Sea mines, Mubarak warned that Libya "will have to bear the consequences, which will be severe" if any other such act "harms us."

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Karmal Addresses Model Workers Meeting

LD172032 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Kabul, October 16, BAKHTAR — The first nation-wide session of the model workers, sponsored by the trade unions of the DRA, was held here today.

The session was convened in appreciation of the initiative work of the model workers and the role of the trade unions in the various spheres of the economy.

Five model workers received medals of honesty at this session.

Addressing the session, Babrak Karmal said that it is the first and foremost duty of the people of Afghanistan to eradicate the last remnants of the armed counterrevolution and to foil the conspiracies hatched against the DRA by imperialism and hegemonism. The role to be played by the model workers in fighting against imperialism and reaction is a reliable guarantee for the annihilation of the counter-revolutionary elements as well as for the reconstruction of the country.

The main speech of the session was read by Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers. The main speech pointed to the significance of the holding of such sessions in order to assess the performances of the workers in the major sectors of the economy as well as in other spheres.

Keshtmand Addresses Meeting

LD172045 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Kabul, October 16, BAKHTAR — 5.7 billion afghani costs of the development projects of the DRA in the last Afghan year, ended March 19, 1984, were totally financed from the internal sources for the first time after the victory of the April revolution 1978.

This was stated by Soltan Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA addressing a trade union-sponsored nation-wide session of model workers of the country here today. He added that by using 120 million dollars foreign aid and over 36 million dollars credit of the Central Bank a number of projects were completed and started functioning last year.

The construction of 1000 residential apartments in Kabul City, establishments in Hairatan Voctlah a capacity of 830 thousand tons of commodity in Kabul University classrooms at a capacity of 2500 students. [sentence as received] [passage indistinct] Soltan Ali Keshtmand said that the agricultural sector has grown by over 7 percent as compared with the year 1978. The sectors of mines and industry and electricity generation have shown a growth of over nine and six percent as compared with the year 1981 respectively. [sentence as received]

The chairman of the Council of Ministers stated that the role of the [words indistinct] in national economy has risen by 20 percent since the April revolution. The state's revenue in the first six months of the current Afghan year has risen by 3.5 billion afghanis as compared with the same period of last year.

Speaking on the literacy program, Soltan Ali Keshtmand said that 20 thousand literacy courses are in progress in which over thousands illiterate persons learn literacy. In the past five years over one million persons have become literate. Talking on the significance of the trade unions, Soltan Ali Keshtmand emphasized that the trade unions are a close assistant of the administration for the solution of the current socio-economic problems of the country.

He called upon the trade unions to step up their share in the implementation of the socio-economic development plans of the country.

Security Forces Score Victories in Provinces

LD171705 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] As our deceived compatriots rejoin our revolutionary state and assist the security forces' courageous and successful operations, day by day our country is being cleansed of filthy rebels and terrorists.

Quoting a security spokesman for the Takhar Province, a BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] correspondent reports that recently, realizing the truth of the April revolution and utilizing the humanitarian policy and amnesty decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium, five deceived persons surrendered to security authorities in Takhar Province bringing their weapons with them.

Repenting their past actions, they promised to take arms against the counterrevolutionaries and not put down their weapons until the rebels are completely eliminated.

Quoting a responsible security source in Ghazni Province, a BIA correspondent reports that during a successful operation mounted recently by the vigilant security forces of that province in the Jaghatu district, 37 counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and another 14 wounded. A large quantity of weapons belonging to them was destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of another successful operation by militant security forces in the villages of Qandahar Province, a number of rebels were crushed and two were captured.

An equipment depot, 5 assorted weapons, rocket launchers, 2,550 rounds of ammunition, 12 hand grenades, and 12 anti-tank mines were seized from these criminals.

Another reporet adds that during an operation which was mounted by the security forces in Konduz Province, a number of counterrevolutionary elements were crushed and a number of weapons were seized.

Also during another operation which was carried out by the security forces in the Dahan Darah area, Faryab Province, a number of these mercenaries of imperialism were crushed and one mortar and 54 shells, 3 DShK's, 10 assorted weapons, and a number of hand grenades were seized.

As a result of other operations which were mounted by the security forces in the Balkh Province villages, 3 DShK's, 11 assorted weapons, 72 antitank and antipersonnel mines, 92 mortar shells, 120-kg explosive substances, and one rocket launcher with 25 shells were seized.

In addition, during an operation recently carried out by security forces of Ghowr Province in the villages, 12 rebels were crushed and weapons belonging to them were destroyed.

Rival Rebel Bands Clash Among Themselves
LD172153 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Reports reaching BIA say that armed clashes took place recently between the so-called Gulbuddin Hezb-e Eslami and Jami'at-e Eslami bands in a number of localities specified for them by the Iranian Government. As a result of these clashes many on both sides were either killed or injured.

Moreover, explosions set by Harakat and Mahaz-e Milli bands occurred in the Afghan escapees' camps a while ago. As a result more than 10 people were seriously injured.

The report adds that in the office of Sayyed Muhammadi, or (Mari), one of the ringleaders of the Jami'at-e Eslami band in Zahedan, a mine exploded and five persons lost their lives. Members of Jami'at-e Eslami band accused members of the Haji Latif committee belonging to Mahaz-e Milli band of beingthe main perpetrators of this explosion.

The reports indicate that clashes and disagreements among the rebel bands are further increasing; not a day passes without mines being planted and other attacks being made on each other's nests, causing death and injury to scores of members of rival bands.

SPA: USSR Deployed Additional 40,000 Troops
LD171739 Riyadh SPA in English 1906 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Islamabad, Oct 16, SPA — The Soviet Union has deployed an additional force of nearly 40,000 Red Army troops to further augment its armed presence in Afghanistan, Western diplomatic sources said here today.

The considerable number of additional Soviet troops arrived in Kabul in early October, the sources said.

They added a part of the new contingent had been flown to Qandahar, the second biggest city in the southeast Afghanistan.

With the arrival of the new contingent, the strength of the Red Army in Afghanistan now amounts to 140,000. The new contingent is expected to be deployed in south-eastern provinces of Qandahar and Paktia, which could be used effectively by Kabul regime to seal off nearly 1,400 miles long borders with Pakistan, the source said.

Meanwhile, the diplomatic sources in Islamabad said Kabul was basically calm during the last week, with the exception of only one major mujahideen activity involving a rain of rocket barrages in the posh Wazir-Akbar-Khan Mina neighbourhood of the Afghan capital city.

A total of seven rockets fell in the area on October 9. Details of the losses are not available, but these rocket attacks spurred the Soviet-Afghan security measures involving elaborate search operations in central and outlying areas of the capital.

During these search operations, two resistance fighters surprised the Soviets by lobbing hand grenades which resulted in the killing of eight Soviets. The fighters were also martyred during the operation, the sources said.

In another incident in the strategic Panjsher valley on October 6, 30 Soviets were killed and ten vehicles destroyed when mujahidin attacked an outpost at Khenj in the valley, northeast of Kabul.

On the other hand, mujahidin attacked a passing communist military convoy an important highway, east of the valley, on October 11, which led to the killing of eight soldiers plus five officers including an Afghan regimental commander. [sentence as received]

Meanwhile, the AGENCY AFGHAN PRESS reported today that Afghan mujahidin shot down a Soviet MIG aircraft when it was bombing their strongholds in sub-division Panjwai of Qandahar Province.

The mujahidin also killed 14 Soviet-Karmal troops and injured 21 others while nine mujahidin were killed and 17 sustained injuries, the agency said.

It also reported raids on mujahidin positions by the Soviet-Karmal forces in Zangabad area of Panjwai on September 28. The mujahidin repulsed the attack after stiff resistance and forced the invaders to flee back after they lost two tanks and incurred heavy losses.

Soon after the Soviet bombers hit the area during which a Soviet MIG plane was shot down as a result of anti-aircraft gun fire.

Several unarmed civilians were reported to have been killed in the bombardment, the agency said.

Kabul Comments on Helmut Kohl Talks in Pakistan
LD172202 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 0735 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Helmut Kohl, chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, after staying a few days in China, paid a visit to Pakistan where he held talks with the head of the military regime, Ziaul Haq.

During his talks with General Zia, Kohl said his government spares no effort in assisting the Afghan fugitives. He said that his government has earmarked another 20 million DM to the

Afghan rebels in order to defeat the antifeudalist and anti-imperialist revolution of Afghanistan.

We ask Mr Helmut Kohl, the FRG chancellor, what benefit has come from the hundreds of millions of marks that you have given to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries; why are you encouraged to pay them again? Mr Helmut Kohl, is not your position that of a leader of the so-called free world, an advocate of human rights? Do you know what shameful actions are perpetrated by these murderous rebels against their homeland's revolution and people, utilizing the money and weapons you supply them? It is obvious that you know what they are doing. We hear reports of their crimes from your radios. Why then do you, who love mankind and defend human rights, pay for the murder of innocents and the burning of schools, mosques, and seminaries in Afghanistan?

Mr Kohl, we do not expect you to answer our questions. We know what you have in mind. Your imam, Hitler, also had the same airs that you yourself have today. He wanted man to be his slaves and obey him. He wanted to buy men and use their brains in the service of his unprecedentedly sinister aims. You show the same primitivethinking he did. With all his power, he was transformed into ashes in the wrathful fire of free, peace-loving men. His followers will have the same destiny, because the power of the people and strength of revolutionary workers is unbreakable; no power can stand against their stormy uprising.

Mr Kohl, our liberating revolution has also passed the stages of defeat and failure. Your vain efforts to defeat the revolution are fruitless because revolutionary Afghanistan has been transformed into a strong and firm fortress. Whoever attempts to capture it will be brought shamefully to their knees.

The people of revolutionary Afghanistan ask you humanists of the so-called free world to leave Afghanistan alone to reach the heights of progress and development through its victorious revolution. Look after the millions of unemployed, sick, and narcotic addicts of your own free world, so that they can become free of their misfortunes. Our people have found their way to prosperity.

Dangers of Iran's 'Reactionary' Regime

LD172114 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0415 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Kabul, October 16, BAKHTAR — The current reactionary rulers of Iran not only have obstructed the socio-economic growth of that country but they have also jeopardized the progressive movements of the neighbouring countries, writes daily [name indistinct].

The daily adds that the recent strivings made by the Iranian Government to collude with the military regime of Pakistan and the reaction of Turkey in order to revive [word indistinct] treaty testify to this fact.

Iran-Iraq war, the daily goes on, is to the disadvantage of both of them and to the advantage of U.S. imperialism. In this aimless war, not only Iranian youth die but the deceived Afghans, who due to different reasons are living there, (?and) are also sent to the war fronts and are being martyred.

The mutual accord between the regime of Iran with the Afghan counter-revolution, the trade expansion between Tehran and the United States and false propaganda by Iranian mass media are all testifying to the reactionary and imperialistic trends of the ruling Iranian circles.

Prague CTK Reports Development in Agriculture

LD170847 Prague CTK in English 1045 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] Kabul Oct 16 (CTK correspondent) — The Afghan economy developed in the first half of the Afghan year which ended on September 20 in tune with the state plan and in some branches exceeded the production of the past years.

This favourable development provides prerequisites for a successful fulfillment of the annual plan of the country's economic and social development, Afghan Deputy Premier and Chairman of the State Planning Commission Mohammad Sarwar Mangal has told CTK.

Considerable successes have been achieved in crop production, a key sphere of the economy. Production of cotton and sugar beet is estimated to increase substantially this (?year) and higher wheat yields compared with last year are also expected. This year's good prospects of Afghan agriculture are a direct consequence of the rise in state support to farmers and of a gradual introduction of modern agro-technical methods.

Favourable results have been achieved also in industry and transport although these spheres were affected by economic banditry and subversive acts of anti-state elements, Mohammad Sarwar Mangal said. Production of natural gas and black coal exceeded planned figures as well as the production of building material and chemical industries. The plan of electricity output was underfulfilled by 10 per cent. The government, however, took necessary steps to settle this debt to the economy within the next six months.

Delhi Reports Dhaka University Demonstration

BK180443 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The Bangladesh president, Lieutenant General Ershad, has said that under no circumstances would his government allow anybody to disrupt peace and hinder the process of transition into democracy through elections. Addressing meetings in the Old City of Dhaka, he reiterated his call to the political parties to participate in the coming elections in December this year.

Several hundred students of the Dhaka University demonstrated to press for an immediate end to military rule. The authorities have closed the university for 25 days because of a general strike called by the two political alliances.

Sattar Says Ershad 'Snatched Away' Power

BK161553 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 11 Oct 84 p 1

[Text] Former President Mr Justice Abdus Sattar on Wednesday denied that he had himself invited Lt. Gen. H.M. Ershad to take over by proclaiming martial law in the country, reports BSS.

Commenting on the speech of Janadal Secretary General Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Mr Justice Sattar in a statement said that the power was "snatched away in the darkness of night when we all were discharging government responsibilities in a healthy political atmosphere after I was elected president of the country through an impartial election".

Justice Sattar described the statement of Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury as "distortion of truth" and commented it was "based on untruth". He said the nation was now facing a great test adding the present government had no support of the people.

Transportation Agreement Reached With India

BK170619 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The standing committee of Bangladesh-India joint economic commission has agreed to expand areas of cooperation in the fields of transport and communication. The committee also decided to take immediate steps to establish direct air link between Dhaka and New Delhi. In this connection, the committee noted that discussions are being held under the auspices of SARC [South Asian Regional Cooperation]. The second meeting of the standing committee ended in New Delhi yesterday with the signing of agreed minutes.

The secretary of the external resources division of Bangladesh, Mr M. Munir-ur-Zaman, and the Indian foreign secretary, Mr Rasgotra, signed the minutes on behalf of their respective governments.

The committee also decided that fully automatic trunk dialing and telex services should be established between the two countries. It further agreed to expand and diversify trade between the two countries and specially emphasized the need for removing the existing trade imbalance.

Gandhi Says Foreign Forces Destabilizing State

BK171642 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The prime minister has said acquisition of sophisticated weapons by some of the neighboring countries is causing serious threat to our stability and development. Addressing a number of public functions during her day-long tour of Bihar, Mrs Gandhi pointed out that India will never attack any country but we will retaliate with full force in case of any attack. The prime minister reiterated that India wants friendly relations with all her neighbors and will continue to pursue the policy of cooperation and goodwill with all nations. The prime minister, who began her day's program by opening a new broadgauge line connecting Barauni with Katihar, later addressed a number of public meetings in Purnia, Katihar and Patna. She also addressed soldiers at Danapur and a seva dal [volunteers] rally at Gandhi Maidan.

Mrs Gandhi cautioned people against foreign forces bent upon creating chaos and instability in the country. There is clear evidence of foreign hands in the destabilizing game with a view to weakening the unity of the country. She asked people to sink their differences as outside forces are trying to take advantage of the country's internal problems. The prime minister criticized the opposition for not taking the issues of external threats and other problems facing the country seriously. Opposition parties have only one aim, and that is to remove the ruling party from power. She deplored that the Pune session of the Bhartiya Janata Party had not even referred to the outside pressures being brought on the country and anti-Indian activities taking place in certain foreign countries. Denying the allegation that the center is interested in toppling non-Congress-I governments, Mrs Gandhi said her party being the people-oriented organization does not believe in such activities.

Addressing a massive rally of the Congress-I seva dal in Patna this evening, she called upon the people to prepare themselves to face boldly the threats to the country and defend the country's hard-earned freedom.

After arriving in Patna, Mrs Gandhi addressed a function in which three former Janata Party legislators and other workers announced their decision to join the Congress-I. Those who joined the party are Thakur Munishwarnath Singh, leader of the opposition in the state legislative council; Mr P.N. Sharma and Mr Kripanath Pathak — both members of the legislative council — 25 former legislators, three former members of parliament and 25 district party presidents. Mrs Gandhi said all like-minded who believe in the progressive policies of her party are welcomed to join it.

Further on Gandhi Speech

BK171300 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Excerpts] The prime minister today dedicated to the nation a 180-km broad gauge railway double track between Katihar and Barauni in Bihar. Commissioning the track, Mrs Gandhi referred to the achievements in various fields and said they are intended to bring about a socioeconomic transformation. Eradication of poverty and the economic backwardness, she said, has been the main task of the government. The center has been trying to better the living standards of the people. A number of programs have been successfully launched. She said the fruits of the programs can reach the people only when they realize the need for checking the population growth.

Mrs Gandhi said in a democracy everybody is free to express their views and we have respect for them. She said the path of agitation adopted by some political parties is hardly of any use. She urged the people to remain vigilant against disruptive and communal forces.

Referring to the expansion of railways, television, and space programs, the prime minister said these will provide maximum facilities to the people and there is no political motive behind them.

Later, addressing a public meeting in Purnia, the prime minister criticized the opposition and said that they are bent upon weakening the unity and integrity of the country. These parties have no concrete program or policy for the welfare of the people, she said. She refuted the allegation that the center is trying to topple non-Congress-I governments.

The prime minister made it clear that India wants friendly relations with all her neighbors and will continue to pursue the policy of cooperation and good will with all nations.

Minister Cites Statistics on Trade With USSR

BK151238 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] The trade turnover between India and the Soviet Union has reached a level of 100 billion rupees during the last 3 years. This was stated by the industry minister, Mr Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy. He was addressing a workshop of trading with the Soviet Union in New Delhi today. He said the trade turnover is expected to reach 170 billion rupees by 1985 exceeding the target by more than 40 billion rupees. Mr Reddy said there are tremendous opportunities for increasing the two-way trade, transfer of technology, and for setting up joint ventures.

The 1-day workshop has been organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Committee Discusses Trade With Bangladesh

BK180445 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] India and Bangladesh are to expand and diversify their trade. They are also to cooperate in turning up feasible studies on establishing chemical and pharmaceutical projects and sugar mills in Bangladesh with Indian assistance. This was agreed to at the 2-day meeting of the standing committee of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Economic Commission. Among other things, the agreed minutes say India will examine the Bangladesh request for early finalization of the contract to supply 20,000 tons of newsprint to their country next year.

India reiterated its interest in importing natural gas from Bangladesh. A decision was also taken regarding the setting up of an iron and steel complex in Bangladesh.

Ordinances Promulgated in Andhra Pradesh
BK170534 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The Andhra Pradesh government has promulgated two ordinances. One of them, known as Andhra Pradesh Members of Police Force Ordinance 1984, makes the police personnel liable to serve anywhere in the state. The second ordinance, called the Andhra Pradesh Educational Institutions Second Amendment Ordinance, cancels admission granted to the private engineering colleges under the management discretionary quota. This reverses the decision of the Bhaskara Rao Ministry, giving the management a quota of 20 percent of seats that could be filled up against capitation fee.

Delhi Reports Pakistani Leader Jatoi Released
BK180440 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] In Pakistan, another political leader, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has been released. Mr Jatoi is the senior member of the Pakistan People's Party. He was under arrest for more than 3 years.

Delhi Says 5 Pakistani Students Killed in Clash
BK180847 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] In Pakistan, five university students are reported killed in a gun battle with Pakistani soldiers in the Sind Province. The trouble erupted in Larkana when the students refused to let an army patrol search the two buses in which they were traveling. Reports say several members of the outlawed Movement for the Restoration of Democracy were also going in the bus to a medical college outside the city.

Zia on Afghanistan, Relations With USSR

BK171039 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The president, General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has said there is no solution of the Afghanistan issue exept a political one and Pakistan is trying to achieve it through the special representative of the UN secretary general. He was talking to newsmen on arrival in Lahore this afternoon on a short visit.

The president said Pakistan has no dispute with the Soviet Union which was our big neighbor, but the two countries have differences on the Afghanistan issue. He said Pakistan had close economic relations with the Soviet Union with the prospects of further development in them.

He said Pakistan has sought clarification from the Indian Government about the reasons of the sudden suspension of rail and road traffic between India and Pakistan. However, it appears that it was a temporary step taken by the Indian Government because of some apprehension on their part.

Nuclear Cooperation With FRG

BK171650 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Excerpts] The president says that he is in continuous touch with the country's politicians so as to get their cooperation. He was speaking to newsmen on arrival in Lahore today. About the election procedure, he said the people will be informed of this when an announcement of the election program is made at the appropriate time. He said the campaign period will be very brief.

On Afghanistan, the president stressed the need for a political solution to this problem and added that Pakistan is sincerely trying, through the UN special representative, to achieve this objective. He emphasized that there is no military solution to this problem. Pakistan, he said, has adopted a principled stand on Afghanistan and is doing everything possible to solve this problem. Referring to indirect Geneva talks on Afghanistan, he said the program for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and the international guarantee for noninterference in Afghanistan were discussed in detail during the negotiations. He said that only the Security Council and neighboring countries can give such guarantees. The president said a superpower's military intervention in Afghanistan has made the Afghan problem complicated and serious. The 117 member nations of the United Nations consider this intervention as an aggression against a nonaligned country — Afghanistan; but the Soviets see the Afghanistan problem differently.

In response to a question, the president said Pakistan and West Germany have been cooperating in the nuclear field for a long time. West Germany has provided training facilities to Pakistanis in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the agricultural and medical fields. The president emphasized that Pakistan needs atomic reactors to meet its energy requirements and for this it wants to set up an atomic reactor at Chashma. The president said he had discussed this issue with the West German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, during his recent visit to Pakistan in order to seek FRG assistance in this regard. He said Kohl had sought certain clarifications. These clarifications were made and Kohl had promised to consider the request for cooperation in the field of energy.

Yaqub Khan Views Talks With Leaders at UN

BK171206 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has said his meetings with the world leaders have resulted in progress and understanding on a number of bilateral issues and led to a deeper understanding of vital international issues. He was talking to newsmen on his return to Islamabad this afternoon after attending the UN General Assembly session in New York. Besides attending the General Assembly session, he attended meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers, ministerial meeting of the nonaligned countries and the Group of 77. He also met the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, his special representative Mr Diego Cordovez, American leaders, and his counterparts from various countries.

About his meeting with the special representative of the UN secretary general, Mr Diego Cordovez, he said they had an exchange of views regarding the next round of indirect negotiations scheduled to be held in Geneva next February.

During his meeting with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Gromyko, the foreign minister said although significant differences of perception remained, especially with regard to the Afghanistan issue, we recognized the need to preserve the Geneva process for seeking a peaceful solution to the problem.

He said he also met the leader of the Indian delegation, Mr G. Parthasarathy. The main objective of the meeting was to remove misapprehensions that have led to a downturn in our bilateral relations. The need for the process of normalization to be brought back on the (?rails) was recognized by both sides.

About his meetings with the American leaders, he said it was found that the U.S. Administration was appreciative of the issues being faced by Pakistan. He discussed with them issues relating to our security concern that was threatening the stability of the region and focused especially on Afghanistan and Pakistan's relations with India.

Iranian Consul General on War With Iraq

GF161843 Rawalpindi HAIDAR in Urdu 1 Oct 84 p 8

[Excerpts] Lahore, 30 September — As they tread the path of Imam Hoseyn, Iranians prefer martyrdom to bartering away their principles. These words were spoken by the Islamic Republic of Iran's consul general, Mr Mohammad Hasan Kasa'i-Shirazi, while addressing the audience at the Iran cultural center on the occasion of the beginning of the month of Muharram and the anniversary of the war imposed by Iraq.

He said: Iraq is not sincere in halting the war. The ICO members should declare Iraq an aggressor and heed our stance. He added: We do not wish to continue the war, but we are forced to do so.

JANG on Danger of Attack on Nuclear Sites

GF150906 Lahore JANG in Urdu 8 Oct 84 pp 1, 8

[Text] According to the *JANG* correspondent in Islamabad, Pakistan has made it very clear that if Israel makes use of Indian territory for an attack on Pakistan's nuclear energy installations, which are engaged in peaceful pursuits, Pakistan will consider it an attack by India. President Ziaul Haq has already referred to this situation in no uncertain terms when he said that if that happened, it will be considered an act presaging a war.

Very reliable sources within the defense establishment have informed the *JANG* correspondent that there is little possibility of a direct Indian attack on Pakistan's nuclear energy installations, because it would be very difficult for Indian bombers to penetrate Pakistani defenses in daylight, and if it is attempted, few Indian planes would be able to return home. The Indian Air Force has numerous British-made Jaguar aircraft which could be used for a night attack. However, Pakistan's Defense Department has devised a special technique to discourage such an attack and destroy the intruders should an attack take place. The special, locally-devised technique envisages the destruction of such aircraft before they are able to reach their targets. The center of Pakistan's nuclear energy installations is at Kahuta, which is some 40 miles from Srinagar in Indian-held Kashmir. Therefore, special defense measures have been employed to prevent any possible attack on Kahuta.

Diplomatic observers in Islamabad, the federal capital, believe that following the failure of the American-Jewish lobby in the U.S. Congress, headed by Senator Cranston, to stop the flow of U.S. aid to Pakistan, resulting in the Congressional decision to continue U.S. aid to Pakistan, the danger of an Israeli attack on Pakistan's nuclear installations has somewhat increased. The threat by the Israeli defense minister that Israel reserves the right to hit any nuclear center in Arab or Islamic countries is already on record. Israel will not hesitate to do so. This threat by Israel was made soon after the Israeli attack on Iraq's nuclear installation with F-15 aircraft given to Israel by the United States. There is also the danger that Israel might try to sabotage Pakistan's nuclear installations. For this, it could find elements in Pakistan among the dissident groups within the country. It is a matter of national importance that President Ziaul Haq take personal interest in matters concerning the defense of Pakistan's nuclear installations.

It is expected that Pakistan will be building more atomic reactors in the near future for meeting the growing energy needs of the country. The government is already engaged in providing funds and choosing a possible location for such future reactors.

SRI LANKA

Delhi Reports Ban on Ethnic Conference Reportage

BK170504 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] The Sri Lanka president, Mr Jayewardene, has promulgated regulations banning publication of the proceedings of the all party conference on the ethnic issue. The regulations also cover the foreign press. Transmission of news relating to the conference from Sri Lanka to any place outside has been prohibited.

'Police Commandos' Operating in Batticaloa

BK161055 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 16 Oct 84

[Text] A specially trained group of police commandos is now operating in Batticaloa to control terrorism. In addition, several high-powered motorboats would soon be deployed in the surveillance zone in the north. This was disclosed by the minister of national security, Latith Athulathmudali, when contacted by the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation this morning.

The minister said that the terrorists were quiet these days because they were assessing the degree of cooperation that the people were giving the government and the security forces. He appealed to the people to forget their differences and unite to ensure the sovereignty and unitary status of Sri Lanka.

Speaking further, Mr Athulathmudali noted that the Prevention of Terrorism Act [PTA] was for the sole purpose of controlling terrorists. He said that if the act was revoked, it would be difficult to get information from terrorist suspects who are in custody. He added that these suspects would have to be released if the PTA was repealed.

Soldier Killed, 20 Injured Near Jaffna

BK180343 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] In Sri Lanka, 20 people were injured, 7 of them seriously, when the Army opened fire at Ellawala near Jaffna yesterday. According to agency reports, the firing followed the killing of a soldier by extremists during a search operation. More than 30 youths from the area are reported to have been taken into custody by the Army.

Reportage on Fighting in Western Region

Iranian Forces Launch Offensive

LD180645 Tehran IRNA in English 0643 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Ilam, Oct 18, IRNA — Units of Iranian forces in western region of the country launched an offensive against Iraqi enemy in a mountainous area over 50 kms late Wednesday night, it was announced Thursday.

The offensive was launched with an objective to hold control over border heights, to put an end to the Iraqi scattered attacks in the region and to silence the Iraqi artillery fire against border villages in Meymak region.

Iraqi air raids and artillery attacks against border villages in this region during the past few days has resulted in the martyrdom and injury of a large number of civilian people.

Military reports say that since the outbreak of the Iraqi-imposed war, Sept. 22, 1980, heights in the western border areas have been in the occupation of the Iraqi enemy and used as positions for their light and heavy artillery.

Iraqi Forces Repelled

LD181112 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct, 18, IRNA — The Wednesday offensive of the Iraqi forces to retake Zayd watch post in the south of Kushk inside Iraqi territory, was repelled by the Islamic combatants and the enemy sustained heavy casualties.

The offensive was launched by a number of mechanized infantry units which have been reinforced after the victorious Kheybar offensive started by the Iranian forces on Feb. 15, 1984.

Reports from the area this morning said that the Iraqi attack has completely been repelled and Iranian forces are now holding full control of the Zayd watch post.

A great number of Iraqi forces were killed or injured during the operation while many others were captured by the forces of Islam.

Iran's Combatants Regain Positions

LD181223 Tehran IRNA in English 1155 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Ahvaz, Oct, 18, IRNA — Following the smash of Wednesday's Iraqi futile offensive, Iran's Muslim combatants are reported to be in full control of their previous positions in the Ramadan theatre of the southwestern fronts.

The attempt of several military units of the 30th brigade of the 5th Iraqi division aimed at penetrating the Islamic Forces' defensive line northwest of Khorramshahr in the Ramadan theatre was severaly smashed by the Iranian defenders. The enemy was forced to retreat, without gaining any success, after sustaining some losses and casualties as well as leaving more than 30 captives behind.

When some reporters visited the battle scene Thursday morning, the bodies of two Iraqi officers were still among tens of those killed or wounded, while the enemy captives were being transferred behind the fronts.

An Iranian commander on the front line stated that the enemy's objective has been aimed at disturbing military order among the Iranian troops who forced the attackers to retreat to their previous positions.

Enemy Casualties Noted

LD181323 Tehran IRNA in English 1310 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Ilam, Oct. 18, IRNA — A group of Iraqi soldiers are encircled in the western wing of the 'Ashura operational region while heavy artillery crossfire continues there.

Reports from the front lines say that Muslim combatants have destroyed a number of enemy armoured equipment.

Fire and smoke fill the battle scene while continuous explosions indicate a number of ammunition depots in the enemy lines have been hit.

A group of enemy troops have been surrounded in the western axis of the operational region across the Fazil heights. Reports said they were attempting in vain to halt the Islamic forces' advance.

Bodies of enemy troops, including a number of officers, are visible across the battle front. Muslim combatants were expecting to deploy defensive tactics from noon.

Iraqi Army Withdraws

LD181425 Tehran IRNA in English 1415 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Ilam, Oct 18 IRNA — The Iraqi Army started a withdrawal from the 'Ashura operational region from 12 noon today, reports reaching here said.

The enemy has lost 20 tanks and a number of artillery pieces since the battle started last night.

Parts of an infantry mountain brigade and a commando batallion from the second Iraqi Corps have been wiped out.

Engineers of the Islamic Army started building front line embankment as soon as the enemy withdrew from the region.

One engineer from the Revolutionary Corps said they have been building trenches connecting the Fazil and Meymak areas. A supply road has also been built on the Gorgani heights.

The battle has liberated tens of square kilometres of the Iranian soil and has brought enemy camps and supply routes under the firing-range of Muslim guns.

Tehran Radio Gives Details

LD181156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Excerpts] According to a dispatch from the special correspondent of the Central News Unit to the western operational sector, the trailblazers of light and the marchers along the crimson Hoseynite path, with eyes filled with tears of enthusiasm and shouting "O Hoseyn!," crossed mine fields and diversion canals and launched an attack on the positions of the cowardly enemy along a number of axes, having pounded the positions, fortifications, equipment, engineering machines and the forces of the Zionist enemy and dealing deadly blows to the aggressor Saddamists.

The dispatch says: At the beginning of the operation from 1000 hours on the morning of 17 October, a thick dust covered the whole area, blinding the cowardly enemy to the traffic and movement of Islam's forces. According to this report the fighting forces of the Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the mobilization and popular forces are advancing with coordination and harmony towards predetermined targets.

What attracts attention in these operations is the coordination and harmony displayed by the Islamic forces who, by crossing the most difficult areas, were able to deal crushing blows to the aggressors. During these successful operations Islam's troops destroyed a quantity of equipment and weapons of the Saddamist infidel forces, killed or wounded a number of them, and captured a number of the Saddamist dupes who are being evacuated to the rear. During these operations so far the Talkh Ab River, the Gorgani heights and Fazil heights have been cleansed of the filth of the infidel Saddamists and have been captured by Islam's forces. These operations are still continuing for the purpose of attaining predetermined targets.

Brigadier General of Armed Forces Martyred

LD180841 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0739 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] The politico-ideological office of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced the following:

The body of martyr Brigadier General Hasan Aqarehparast, one of the commanders of the forces of Islam, will be carried from the government pavilion at Mehrabad International Airport to Behasht-e Zahra cemetery at 1100 today.

The presence of the hezbollah nation at the ceremonies will help ensure the continuation of the path of the martyrs and be a hard blow to world arrogance.

Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique No 1,883

LD171756 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — At least 10 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and more than five weaponry positions and observation posts were set ablaze and demolished in the western fronts of the country during the preceding 24 hours, announced the Joint Staff Command Communique No. 1,883 released today.

The communique further said that the patrol activities of the enemy troops were also checked in these fronts.

In the northwestern operational fronts, Iraqi artillery positions and motorised columns were subjected to Iranian fire, as a result of which parts of their front line positions, several group bunkers, one mortar launching pad, and two observation posts were demolished and several Iraqi troops were killed or wounded. The vehicle movement of the enemy forces were also distrubed in these fronts.

Exchange of fire was more intense in Meymak in the western fronts and in Shahrani and Talayah in southern fronts during the past day. The Islamic combatants silenced the Iraqi fire in the southern fronts and smashed several of their positions inflicting relatively heavy casualties and losses upon them.

In Arvand River front, the Iraqi logistic activities were disturbed and eight enemy weaponry bunkers were demolished and their crew killed.

Abadan was under Iraqi long-range heavy fire during the past day as a result of which one civilian was wounded while 12 houses and one shop were damaged, concluded the Joint Staff Command communique.

Iran Denies Iraqi Claims of Basra Shelling

LD172250 Tehran IRNA in English 1419 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — An official of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran here today denied Baghdad's Tuesday night claim which blamed Iran for shelling parts of the Iraqi city of Basra.

The official said it is long time since the Iranian forces have quit shelling Iraqi cities and towns, and noted that they had not fired "even a single bullet" at residential quarters and cities in Iraq. He reminded that this is true in spite of the fact that the ruling government in Baghdad has repeatedly shelled residential quarters in Iran despite its commitment to the United Nations to spare residential quarters and cities and towns from its attacks.

Baghdad radio on Tuesday night claimed that the Iranian forces had shelled parts of the Iraqi city of Basra, south west of the Iraq-Iran border.

Mobilization Units Leave for Battlefronts

LD180829 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0230 GMT 18 Oct 84

[Text] Continuing the departure of brave fighters of Islam to the war fronts, a large number of self-sacrificing members of the Basij units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces yesterday left for the battlefronts from Ramsar's Shahid Barakati garrison amid glorious ceremonies.

A large number of self-sacrificing forces of Basij and Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Najafabad, Kashmar, Fariman, and Quchan also left for the battlefrontsto assist the powerful forces of Islam. They were given a warm send-off by the people of their towns.

To offer technical assistance to the fighters of Islam on the battlefronts and behind the lines, a number of brothers from the crusade for reconstruciton from Semnan and Jahrom and a number of technical brothers from the Basij units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps of Karaj left for the operational zones.

Bushehr Governor General Visits Khark Island

GF171740 Bushehr Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Jamalian, the governor general of Bushehr, along with a number of experts on his staff, arrived in Khark Island for an inspection visit this morning. They were received by the district governor, the acting commander of the joint force of Khark fighting units, the commander of the local Gendarmerie, officials of the oil company, and officials of the government departments in Khark.

The governor general, along with the district governor and the regional chief of the oil company, visited the water and electricity system of Khark.

According to the same report the governor general of Bushehr Province, left the island this afternoon.

Prime Minister Chairs Cabinet Meeting

LD172305 Tehran IRNA in English 1525 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 17, IRNA — Prime Minister Musavi said at a session of the Cabinet meeting here today that government ministers have a commitment to promptly detect and do away with elements in government organisations who may tend to engage in underhanded defamatory acts for the mere purpose of smearing the Islamic government. He called on public officials to detect and fight against every symptom of corruption which they may encounter in the conduct of their duties.

During the same meeting the Cabinet reviewed current internal events and also ratified a 1.5 billion rials (dls. 15 m.) budget appropriations for implementing water and power projects for Khuzestan Province.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Discusses Islamic Goals

GF171922 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Oct 84

[Text] Brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Majlis speaker and the imam'srepresentative in the Supreme Defense Council, met today with the commander of the Gendarmerie, who was accompanied by Gendarmerie commanders from throughout the country. During this meeting, Brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani, referring to the goals of the Islamic Revolution, said: Today, the Palestinian people voiced their complaints at the United Nations organization through the Islamic Republic of Iran in spite of the silence of the Arab countries. Today, the complaints of the Lebanese people reached the world through Iran. We must not expect that the superpowers in the East and West will keep silent about the Islamic Revolution.

The imam's representative in the Supreme Defense Council added that when the international arrogance adopts an aggressive act, like the one adopted by Saddam Husayn at our borders, it can implement it elsewhere. He said that we found ourselves surrounded by enemies all over the world. Brother Hashemi-Rafsanjani affirmed that the Islamic Revolution will take a serious stand toward the aggression by international arrogance throughout the world, especially against Muslims. While this policy will subject Iran to many difficulties, its benefits and far-reaching goals will declare its righteousness.

Observers Believe Afghan War Will Continue

LD151324 Tehran IRNA in English 1045 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] Belgrade, Oct. 15, IRNA — Military and political observers watching developments in Soviet occupied Afghanistan, for the past five years are of the opinion that the war in Afghanistan will continue.

Some analysts believe that the struggle of the Afghan Muslim mujahidin against the government and Soviet forces are [as received]one of the most bloody guerrilla warfare in the past few decades. Although no exact figure of the casualties is available, estimates indicate that both sides have suffered great losses both in terms of manpower and military equipment.

The Soviet and Afghan forces fear that they have to keep on employing (?new) tactics against the mujahidin who are well supported by the people and can adapt themselves to the situation far better. The Soviet and Afghan Government forces have failed in wiping out the mujahidin and, therefore, it is not known when the armed struggle in Afghanistan will come to an end.

The Soviet and government forces have realised that they could force the mujahidin to retreat from their positions, however, they could not smash them.

According to some estimates at present, about 85,000-130,000 Soviet soldiers, more than 4,000 Soviet tanks and vehicles, and more [words indistinct] helicopters and fighters are stationed in Afghanistan. In addition, some 25,000 soldiers of the Afghan Government are aiding the Soviet forces, however, they do not enjoy a proper combat ability.

On the contrary, the mujahidin are numbered between 90,000-120,000 with minimal ammunition, mostly seized from the enemy depots. The Afghan mujahidin are said to be using (?portable) rockets, which they have received from abroad. This shows that other elements are also involved in the Afghanistan crisis, which makes the problem more complicated.